News Release

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Edmonton says "store it, don't pour it"

Edmonton, March 27, 2008 – What you pour down your sink can "drain" your bank account. Fats, oils and greases can cause sewer back ups and expensive property damage, so the City is telling Edmontonians "store it, don't pour it" in a new campaign launched today.

"Pouring fats, oils and grease down the drain can block the main sewer lines as well as those on private property. This can result in sewer backups, property damage and significant costs to residents and to the City," said Andy Bowen, Director of the City's Drainage Operations. "We have approximately 3000 km of sanitary and combined sewers and the cost to clean the buildup of grease runs into a lot of money. In fact, in 2007 we cleaned approximately 650 kilometers of sanitary and combined sewers at a cost of $1.2 million."

Residents are asked to store fats and grease in a disposable container. When it is full, it can be thrown out with other garbage. Used cooking oil should be cooled and put into a covered plastic bottle, labeled and put out for garbage collection. Residents who are disposing of four or more litres of used cooking oil can take it to an EcoStation.

Contrary to popular belief, running hot water and soap down the drain will not help break down the grease. Running hot water only pushes the grease further down the sewer pipes but once the grease cools, it solidifies and blockages can result in the sewer line on private property or in the City drainage system.

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About Edmonton:

This is a city alive with energy and boundless opportunity - a growing economic powerhouse where business thrives and more than a million lives enjoy the freedom to explore, experiment, experience, excel and expect the most out of every day. A place like no other, Edmonton is filled with surprises great and small and a calendar packed with artistic, sporting, theatrical and cultural celebration.

For more information on Edmonton, please visit our website at: www.edmonton.ca.

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THE CITY OF Edmonton